

critical digest



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This Week in NYC

All the Way Home will remain open until at least Dec 17 as a result of a combination of factors following the posting of a closing notice for its fifth performance. Fred Coe-Arthur Cantor production of Tad Mosel's play based on Pulitzer Prize novel "A Death in the Family" by James Agee, directed by Arthur Penn, opened to a set of five mild pro notices and two mild con notices, plus a slim advance sale of \$33,000 spread over an eight week period. With news of the closing of the show week-end business was a sell-out, prompting producers to extend run. CBS-TV Ed Sullivan recommendation and display ads heralding "Miracle on 44th St" boosted advance sale \$33,000 Mon. Investors have given money to keep play open and Hal Holbrook and Paul and Blake Hunter have taken ads boosting the play.

Plays

Under the Yum Yum Tree has switched from three act to two act format... The 49th Cousin to give 3 and 8 PM Sun performances, dropping Wed matinees... Do Re Mi reports \$500,000 advance sale... Albert Marre replaced Bob Fosse as director of The Conquering Hero... Kean, a musical version of Jean Paul Sartre drama of English actor will be presented next season by Robert Lantz, with book by Peter Stone, music by Robert Wright and George Forrest, starring Alfred Drake... Gentle As a Lion, Civil War comedy by Felix Leon, to be presented in Mar by Stella Holt, staged by Sidney Walters.

Players

Barbara Britton will replace Jan Sterling, How to Make A Man, who had to bow out due to film commitment... Marian Seldes replaced Yvonne Mitchell, The Wall, George C Scott returned to cast... Ruth White signed for Catstick... Alice Pearce, Nydia Westman, Clinton Sundberg added to Midgie Purvis... Barry Nelson and Barbara Bel Geddes to co-star in Mary, Mary new comedy by Jean Kerr... Myles Easton, Australian actor who made NY debut in The Visit, to portray Brooks Atkinson in Julia Jake and Uncle Joe.

President elect John Kennedy attended The Best Man in NYC, received a standing ovation from the audience and applause from cast at curtain call.

NYC Calendar

The Summer Pygmies- Jan Hus (351 E 74)- 12/12. Pygmies, Inc. presents new play written and directed by Gerald Marchette with Frances Baird, Robert Gentry, Kurt Beiber,

Borak- Martinque (32 & Bway) 12/13. Richard Blofson- Gordon David -Richard Jackson present new Civil War drama by Robert Hock, directed by Allen Fletcher with William Swetland, Andrew Pine, Chris Gampel.

Critic's Choice- Barrymore 12/14. Otto Preminger presents and directs new comedy by Ira Levin with Henry Fonda, Mildred Natwick' Eddie Hodges.

Wildcat- Alvin 12/15. Michael Kidd-N. Richard Nash present new musical comedy starring Lucille Ball, with book by Nash, lyrics by Carolyn Leigh, music by Cy Coleman. Directed by Kidd with Keith Andes, Edith King, Paula Stewart.

In the Jungle of Cities-Living Theatre (530-6th Av) 12/16. Living Theatre adds 1923 Brecht play about Chicago in 1912 to repertory, new translation by Gerhard Neibaus, directed by Judith Malina. To be presented Weds 8 30, Sat 7 PM, Sun 8 30 PM.

Drama Desk

Dec 12 "Drama Desk" meeting of NY theatre editors and reporters to discuss Broadway as viewed from abroad with Eugene Ionesco, Richard Burton, Hal Holbrook, Alfred Lynch, Yvonne Mitchell, Joan Plowright, Elizabeth Seal.

Theatre TV Notes

Dec 12 WNTA (NY) Play of the Week is Rashomon with Carol Lawrence and Ricardo Montalban. Dec 19 Emmanuel new Nativity play by James Forsythe to be presented with Earle Hyman, Lois Nettleton, Frederick Tozere... Richard Rodgers to be host of CBS TV "The Gershwin Years" replacing ill Moss Hart.

Theatre Book Notes

"The Genuis of the Irish Theatre" edited by Sylvan Barnet, Morton Berman, William Burton with plays by Lady Gregory, Yeats, O'Casey, Shaw published by New Directions Library Dec 20.

Off Broadway

Shows that closed include-- Marcus in the High Grass after 16 performances, and Greenwich Village, USA after 87.

Theatre 1961 to present The Sudden Death of Anne Cinquefoil, a new play by Richard Hepburn, Jan 10 at East End Theatre, 83 E 4 (refurbished Downtown Theatre), directed by Jack Sydow with Priscilla Morrill... Theatre 1961 production of twin bill of The American Dream and Bartleby postponed until house available.

Call Me By My Right Name a new play by Michael Shurtleff will be presented by Judy Rutherford Jan 30 at One Sheridan Square with Collin Wilcox and Robert Duvall, directed by Milton Katselas... Barrabbas a new religious drama by Michele de Ghelderode to be presented in Feb by Isiah Sheffer- James Antonio, directed by Sheffer... Strindberg's The Great Highway to be presented in spring by John Bowman-Richard Roffman, as third of current Strindberg cycle.

Song of Sixpence a new play about Shakespeare's players by Russell McLauchlin, Detroit News critic, and John McCabe, presented last week-end at Lambs Club, directed by Martyn Green with Annette Hunt, Lee Cass, William Martel.

Congreve's The Way of the World directed by George Devine, Royal Court producer-director, to be presented Dec 16-19 by Institute of Advanced Studies in Theatre Arts, 418 W 42nd St, NYC.

Theatre Posters

Tenderloin three sheet and window card posters available at \$5 and \$3 from Jacobson & Harmon Publicity, 229 W 42nd NYC. Checks made to Actors Fund.

NY Shakespeare

Joseph Martinson elected chairman of Board of Trustees of NY Shakespeare Festival.

Theatre Film Notes

The Kitchen by Arnold Wesker to be filmed at ACT Films by Sidney Cole next year in London.

Award Dept

Entries for dramatic division of Sidney Hillman Foundation Awards must be mailed to Foundation, 15 Union Sq, NY 3, NY by Feb 3, 1961

((Late News & Reviews- Supplement))

DIGESTS OF CURRENT NYC THEATRE REVIEWS

Camelot- Majestic 12/3. 3 pro- News, World Telegram & Sun, Journal American- and 4 con- Times, Herald Tribune, Mirror, Post- filed on new musical by Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe based on T. H. White's novel "The Once and Future King", directed by Moss Hart, presented by Lerner - Loewe-Hart with Julie Andrews, Richard Burton, Robert Goulet, Robert Coote, Roddy McDowall. Two affirmatives were complete raves for everything and everybody involved, while McClain, Journal American, approved of spectacle's scenery by Oliver Smith and costumes by Adrian and Tony Duquette. Negative voters agreed that sets, costumes and personalities of two leading players were fine, but thought book missed in not being fun enough. Rave from Chapman, News, marked it magnificent, songs lovely and unfailing right, cast superb. Rave from Aston, WTS, admitted he sat open-mouthed at uninhibited splendor of vitaminized version of Arthur legend, show with gayety and grandeur, its beauty almost unbelievable. McClain, Journal American, okayed three or four wonderful performances, dances and pageantry and the most beautiful and resplendent show in the whole world. Journal American aisle-sitter thinks authors made error in not having book an all out farce. Dissenter Taubman, Times, labeled the production a partly enchanted city that is unfortunately weighed down by a burdensome book with inconsistent styles of story-telling, a great deal of obvious humor and a boring portrait of Lancelot. Kerr, Herald Tribune, liked the first four scenes but feared play's final scenes were strange, awkward and inconclusive. Story fails to define flowering relationship between play's two leading character and most vital scene of play is missing, Kerr noted. Coleman, Mirror, thought it an expensive disappointment, and agreed the book missed in not being a satire, which it might have started out as. Watts, Post, found many splendid, moving moments, but was left with impression of heaviness, ponderousness in script that had unfortunate way of getting lost from time to time between its fantasy, its satirical humor and its romantic wastefulness.

Send Me No Flowers- Atkinson 12/5. 5 pro- and 2 con- News, Post- filed on new comedy by Norman Barasch and Carroll Moore, presented by Courtney Burr-Edward Specter Productions, directed by James Dyas with David Wayne, Nancy Olson, Frank Merlyn. Pro voters generally agreed that thin comic idea was excellently played and had many funny scenes, while two con voters were not amused by the one thin joke. All approved David Wayne and expert supporting cast of comics. Taubman, Times, recommended it if you don't mind implausible people going through unbelievable antics in a show that does generate a lot of laughs. Kerr, Herald Tribune, approved of mild little frolic with a few genuine gags that come as noticeable relief in this half-baked season. Kerr's approval did not include okay for direction which lacked knack of wrapping up and driving home the real comic gains. Coleman, Mirror, thought most of the unpretentious little comedy very funny with its expert cast of farcuers. McClain, Journal American, okayed frothy little comedy requiring no effort whatever with an abundance of gags and amusing stage business and many just plain funny lines. Aston, World Telegram & Sun, rated it a fine idea for a farce that worked out. Negative viewer Chapman, News, admitted there was nothing wrong with script except its general frailty, one comic idea stretched pretty thin with a lack of surprises. Watts, Post, panned it as too frail a comedy, slender, machine made, only intermittently entertaining. In addition he was the sole critic to rate it a fairly grisly subject for a comedy.

((Late Reviews---Supplement))



OFF
BROADWAY
WEEK

The Plough and the Stars- Phoenix- 12/6. 4 pro- Times, Post, Journal American, World Telegram & Sun- and 2 con- News, Herald Tribune- filed on Phoenix' second repertory production of season, a revival of the Sean O'Casey drama. Affirmative appraisers split in their verdict with Journal American and World Telegram & Sun reviewers voting for both play and production, and Times and Post reviewers approving production for play, not players. Likewise the two negative votes were filed against lack of experience of players for this kind of production, rather than the play itself. Taubman, Times, felt that neither company nor director mastered play, with a need for subtler orchestrations of performance as a whole required. But though he would have preferred to have it done brilliantly one can draw the warmth from O'Casey's shinning spirit even in this less than inspired production. Stuart Vaughan directed cast headed by Betty Henritze, Gerry Jedd, Robert Blackburn, Ray Reinhardt, Watts, Post, also okayed it for play which triumphed over the hazard of a singularly flat and flavorless production of the Irish masterpiece. The revival is lacking in gusto and eloquence and has a general effect of competence rather than brilliance, Post man summed. Aston, WTS, cheered play and players, both masterpieces working as unit whipped up in a rouser, a vivid, lashing experience. McClain, Journal American, also applauded both play and players. Though critic admits he is still bored by the Irish rebellion it seems here to stay and this is its most authentic version to date. As straight drama the play seems to have serious shortcomings, but McClain felt as sheer analysis of people it is superlative. Henritze received best notices in cast, many of whom were criticised for having poor Irish accents. Chapman, News, panned production in terse two paragraph notice listing some of performances unintelligible, some of it inaudible and done in a variety of acting styles and accents. Kerr, Herald Tribune, blamed production in which rarely have many mauled a good so play so resolutely. They made it seem more like the Cohens and the Kelleys During Easter Week.

Emmanuel- Gate 12/4- 4 pro- Times, Herald Tribune, World Telegram & Sun, Journal American- and 1 con- Post- filed on new Nativity play by James Forsyth presented as the third production of Gate Repertory Company, directed by Matt Conley with Charles Caron, Joce West, Archie Smith. Times and Herald Tribune filed raves while other two affirmatives were milder. Post dissent panned it as sermon, not theatre. Taubman, Times, recommended fresh, elevating experience written with reverence and personal, poetic style. He complimented affecting performances by entire cast. Kupeferberg, Herald Tribune, approved of tender, human religious drama with enough imaginative insight to bring certain freshness, and strangeness to the tale, handsomely staged and beautifully acted by a company of young perfectionists. McClain, Journal American, okayed well done production, thoughtfully conceived, well mounted and acted, a play that will go well later in community theatres. Aston, WTS, recommended play to those interested in Biblical experiments in theatre, a pleasant experience in a gentle fashion.

The Miracle- Broadway Chapel (211 W 56) 12/4. 1 pro- Times- and 1 con- World Telegram & Sun- filed on Broadway Chapel Players production of a new play by Manuel-Mendoza Ballester, staged by Bill Penn with Michael Enserro, Richard Woods. This answer to "Waiting for Godot" by Puerto Rican playwright approved as a creditable addition to Chapel Players by Funke, Times. While Saffron, WTS, marked it as high minded, but hardly exciting. It will be presented for 10 Sun 5 PM performances through Feb 5.



GREEN
ROOM
DEPARTMENT



PROS & CONS BY TMK

SPLIT BARD... Slim 12-10 approval by NY Board of Estimate of \$50,000 to NY Shakespeare Festival producer Joe Papp for Romeo and Juliet Jan to May NYC high school tour drew 2 pro editorials- Times, Post-and 1 con editorial-Mirror. Times praised project as most effective way of enriching study of Shakespeare, and also doubted if a single auditor of Papp's summer programs has been subverted. Post applauded Mayor Wagner and other Board members who refused to be intimidated by four members with closed minds by voting in effect that neither Romeo nor Juliet must take a loyalty oath before the high school doors are open to them. But Mirror rated majority opinion 100 % lousy and shocking. Editorial asks who says the project is worth \$50,000 even if the city had that kind of money to spend. Though Mirror granted that there isn't much subversion in Romeo & Juliet, it does ask why a producer with a Fifth amendment record should be rewarded with \$50,000 of the taxpayers' money.

COLUMN TIPS... Richard Rodgers planning new musical based on Sherlock Holmes for Rex Harrison, hears Coleman, Mirror... Betty Grable considering two Broadway scripts, reports Kilgallen, Journal American... Jack Lemmon to compose new musical for Robert Josephs based on recent Equity-League of NY Theatres dispute, notes Lyons, Post... Jeannette MacDonald being offered starring role in musical version of Sunset Boulevard by Griffith & Prince, details Parsons, Journal American.

"ADVISE" ADVICE... News editorial recommends Advise and Consent concurring with their critic, Chapman, that play is high-point of theatrical season to date. Editorial likes best fact that the local Communists and professional "liberals" are now trying to smear it out of business, because its theme and tone are so solidly pro-American and anti-Red, quite a novelty for the legitimate stage in recent years... Watts, Post, somehow was not surprised to read editorial position of News on planned he vetoed.

CRITICAL THOUGHTS... Charges against drama critics vary little from year to year and are all so much dried shaving cream lather, rates McClain, Journal American... Closing of so beautiful if somber a play as All the Way Home after five performances would have been an outrage, comments Watts, Post... Theatre powers were urged to find ways to cut production costs now that so many productions are shifting toward simpler sets which should require fewer stagehands, by Coleman, Mirror.

DRAMA MAIL BOX... Camelot co-author Alan Jay Lerner in formed Lyons, Post, that he was shocked to read that authors would consider giving opening night audience anything but their best. He denied musical would not be frozen until after premiere... Reader following McHarry, News, advise to see Little Moon of Alban because it was a tearjerker, wrote that she cried all-right but it was for her wasted \$6. She got bored after 15 minutes of Julie Harris' voice breaking.

THEATRE BOOK COMMENTS... "The World of Musical Comedy" edited by Stanley Green enjoyed by Sobol, Journal American as a fine and informative tome.

THEATRE RECORD COMMENTS... Tenderloin original cast album (Capitol) okayed for pleasant listening by Schrieber, World Telegram & Sun. Though he did think Maurice Evans' singing voice was like a stale Rex Harrison... Camelot music only album by Hugo Montenegro Orchestra (Time) recommended by WTS record reviewer as a score filled with pageantry and flow that can stand on its own.

EVERYBODY A CRITIC... Dore Schary reports in Herald Tribune article that at recent opening when he was seated next to Kerr, Herald Tribune, the critic was not nudged by his wife. But Schary was nudged by Mrs. Schary.

The Plough and the Stars is a fair attempt at presenting O'Casey's difficult drama of the Irish rebellion. The masterful script skillfully mixes comedy and tragedy onstage at the same time in complex scenes. The cast does better with the serious moments than the humorous ones which seem to fall into uncalled for slapstick. Though they seem to take the first act to get in the proper mood, though never in the proper accent, the play gains in interest as the evening progresses. This, the nearest the present company has come to presenting a modern drama, is not up to the high standards set in previous productions; but this important O'Casey play is a must for every serious theatre fan.

Send Me No Flowers is a very funny, underplayed quiet farce on a rather deadly subject that is presented in the best of taste by a uniformly excellent company. Thanks to dozens of quietly insane ideas on suburban life it is always entertaining, though never hilarious. It does not hit hard and loud as the standard farce, but it is played by expert comics intent on letting the audience decide how far some of the madder ideas could go.

All the Way Home is a beautifully wrought portrait of a complete family unit at a vital moment in their collective lives. Brilliant individual characterizations are welded together in a tender, moving script aided by clever, inspired direction which keeps story moving swiftly yet without ever jarring. Colleen Dewhurst presents one of those unforgettable moments of drama that will stick in the mind and eye for years.

Little Moon of Alban is an unconvincing Irish play in spite of the beautiful, per usual, job done by Julie Harris. The play itself, in spite of some rather gory first act dramatics, remains thin, leaving too many questions unanswered to be believable. Likewise it fails as serious religious drama due to its lack of a real verbal stand by the non-believer who joins the Church and wins the girl.

Though this might be the season devoted to what the Times' film critic termed "The World's Oldest Obsession", the first part of the drama season on and Off Broadway has also provided a short course in the Irish Rebellion 1915-1916. Four productions so far have discussed various angles, and the subject is far from exhausted. The trend may be short lived with two plays slated for the spring concerning the US Civil War, one a comedy.

The interim success of All the Way Home goaded into a temporary hit by a strange combination of factors: shows the illogic in blaming all theatre failures on the critics. In this case five of the seven daily reviewers approved of the production. The show was slated to close due to a lack of advance sale because cast lacked glamour names. Imaginative public relations and advertising, plus a few lucky breaks resulted in the well-advertised reprieve. Simply shows there are other ways to promote plays than "quote" ads.

Visit of President-elect John Kennedy to The Best Man is a welcome start to what might become a habit of the new First Executive. Ike made golf popular, so who knows what Jack might do for that "fabulous invalid."

Theatre Fact Chart presents up-to-minute data on current business and critical reaction on current Broadway & Off Broadway shows. Top week endprizes, opening dates listed.

SUBSCRIBERS ONLY may write or phone for any other specific critical data and/or for specific details of late NYC reviews and Out of Town tryout reviews.

"C"-Critical-figures refer to percentage of PRO votes filed by 7NYC reviewers. PRO means show was recommended for entertaining and/or stimulating evening, not if critic predicted if show would be a commercial hit (earn back its investment.)

"B"-Business-figures refer to percentage of gross ticket sales last week and indicates current availability of tickets. Figures that follow, all in thousands of dollars, are gross capacity (CAP) and corrected Variety grosses of past weeks. Thus 100% B Cap \$80-\$80-\$70 means show was a sellout this week at \$80,000, last week's gross was \$70,000, etc.

ADVISE & CONSENT Cort \$7.50 11/17/60	138 W 48 CI 5-4289	70% C- 2 Con-Times, Post- 4 raves 95% B- Cap \$40--\$38 \$38 \$29
ALL WAY HOME Belasco \$7.50 11/30/60	111 W 44 JU 6-7950	70% C- 2 Con- News, WTS Cap \$38
BECKET St James \$7.50 10/5/60	246 W 44 LA 4-4664	90% C- 4 raves- 1 Con- Times 85% B- Cap \$59--\$47 \$51 \$57 \$56 \$56
BEST MAN Morosco \$7.50 3/31/60	235 W 45 CI 6-6230	100% C- 7 pro- 3 raves 70% B- Cap \$40--\$26 \$28 \$34 \$30 \$35 \$40
BYE BYE BIRDIE 54th St \$8.60 4/14/60	152 W 54 JU 6-3787	90% C- 1 Con- Times-rest all raves 90% B- Cap \$60--\$51 \$52 \$57 \$47 \$55 \$58
CAMELOT Majestic \$9.40 12/3/60	245 W 44 CI 6-0730	40% C- 3 Pro- News, WTS, J. Am 100% B- Cap \$83--\$83
FIORIELLO Broadhurst \$9.40 11/23/59	235 W 44 CI 6-6699	100% C- 5 raves-Post, WTS milder book 95% B- Cap \$58--\$55 \$54 \$57 \$51 \$58 \$58
49th COUSIN Amhaas \$6.90 10/27/60	215 W 49 CO 5-1855	30% C- 2 Pro- Times, News 65% B- Cap \$32--\$23 \$22 \$22 \$25 \$23
GYPSY Imperial \$9.40 5/21/59	249 W 45 CO 5-2412	100% C- 7 pro- J Am milder on book 65% B- Cap \$64--\$39 \$47 \$47 \$44 \$49 \$51
HOSTAGE O'Neill \$7.50 9/20/60	230 W 49 CI 6-8870	60% C- 4 Pro- H Trib, Post, Mir, WTS 45% B- Cap \$40--\$17 \$22 \$18 \$22
INVITATION TO MARCH M Box \$7.50 10/29/60	239 W 45 CI 5-9850	30% C- 2 Pro- News, J Am 50% B- Cap \$40--\$22 \$24 \$30 \$27
IRMA LA DOUCE Plymouth \$8.60 9/28/60	236 W 45 CI 6-9156	90% C- 1 Con- H Trib 95% B- Cap \$49--\$45 \$49 \$49 \$49 \$49 \$49
LA PLUME Royale \$8.05 11/11/58	242 W 45 CI 5-5760	100% C- 6 raves-Times milder 75% B- Cap \$45--\$31 \$31 \$27 \$28 \$35 \$37
LITTLE MOON ALBAN Longacre \$7.50 12/1/60	220 W 48 CI 6-5639	60% C- 4 Pro-Times, Mir, J Am, WTS Cap \$40
LOVE & LIBEL Beck \$7.50 12/7/60	302 W 45 CI 6-6363	supplement Digests
MIKE & ELAINE Golden \$6.90 10/8/60	246 W 45 CI 6-6740	100% C- 7 pro for 2 person revue 100% B- Cap \$30--\$30 \$30 \$30 \$28 \$30 \$30
MIRACLE WORKER Playhouse \$7.50 10/19/60	137 W 48 CI 5-6060	100% C- 5 raves-Times, WTS milder 90% B- Cap \$36--\$28 \$31 \$33 \$30 \$32 \$34
MUSIC MAN Broadway \$8.05 12/19/57	1681 Bway CI 7-7992	100% C- 6 raves- H Trib milder 40% B- Cap \$73--\$30 \$44 \$34 \$35 \$36 \$48
MY FAIR LADY Hellinger \$8.05 3/15/56	235 W 51 PL 7-7064	100% C- 7 raves Play-News OK P Charla 55% B- Cap \$70--\$40 \$40 \$48 \$45 \$44 \$48
PERIOD OF ADJUSTMENT Hayes \$7.50 11/10/60	206 W 46 CI 6-6380	70% C- 2 Con- Times, WTS 55% B- Cap \$43--\$23 \$27 \$33
SEND ME NO FLOWERS Atkinson \$7.50 12/5/60	256 W 47 CI 6-8870	70% C- 2 Con- News, Post Cap \$40
SOUND OF MUSIC Lunt \$9.90 11/16/59	205 W 46 JU 6-5555	90% C- 1 Con- H Trib- 3 raves 100% B- Cap \$75--\$75 \$75 \$75 \$75 \$76 \$76
TAKE ME ALONG Shubert \$9.40 10/22/59	225 W 44 CI 6-5910	90% C- 1 Con- Mir-2 raves-News, WTS 50% B- Cap \$64--\$32 \$40 \$32 \$35 \$31 \$40
TASTE OF HONEY Lyceum \$6.90 10/4/60	149 W 45 JU 6-9854	70% C- 2 Con- News, Mir 65% B- Cap \$32--\$28 \$25 \$26 \$24 \$24
TENDERLOIN 46th St \$8.60 10/17/60	226 W 46 CI 6-4271	30% C- 2 Pro-News, WTS (raves) 95% B- Cap \$64--\$60 \$54 \$62 \$55 \$62
TENTH MAN Booth \$7.50 11/5/59	222 W 45 CI 6-5959	100% C- 7 pro-2 raves-Times, News 45% B- Cap \$32--\$14 \$18 \$16 \$18 \$16
TOYS IN ATTIC Hudson \$7.50 2/25/60	141 W 44 JU 6-2237	100% C- 5 raves-Times, J Am milder 45% B- Cap \$40--\$15 \$19 \$21 \$21 \$20
UNDER YUM YUM Miller \$7.50 11/16/60	124 W 43 BR 9-3970	40% C- 3 Pro- Times, News, WTS 65% B- Cap \$33--\$22 \$22 \$21
UNSINKABLE M BROWN W Garden \$9.40 11/3/60	1634 Bway CI 5-4878	70% C- 2 Con- News, Mir 95% B- Cap \$68--\$64 \$56 \$63 \$56
THE WALL Roe \$7.50 10/11/60	208 W 41 WI 7-5510	40% C- 3 Pro- raves-Times, News, WTS 45% B- Cap \$46--\$21 \$23 \$22 \$18 \$18

OFF BROADWAY

BALCONY Circle \$4.50 3/3/60	159 Bleecker CR 3-4950	3 Pro-Times, Post, WTS 3 Con- H Trib, News, J Am
DANCE OF DEATH Key \$3.60 9/13/60	4 St Marks GR 5-9748	2 Pro- Times, WTS 3 Con- H Trib, Post, J Am
DREAM PLAY T East \$3.60 11/22/60	211 E 60 TE 2-9220	4 Pro-Times, H Trib, Post, WTS 1 Con- J Am
DRUMS UNDER WINDOW C Lane \$4.60 10/13/60	38 Comm CH 2-4289	5 Pro- 2 Con- H Trib, News
EMMANUEL Gate \$3.90 12/4/60	162 2nd Av OR 4-3796	4 Pro- Times, H Trib, WTS, J Am 1 Con- Post
FANTASTICKS Sullivan \$4.60 5/3/60	181 Sullivan OR 4-3838	5 Pro- 1 Con- H Trib, No Mirror
HEDDA GABLER 4th St \$4.60 11/9/60	83 E 4 AL 4-4795	7 Pro- Unanimous raves for Anne Meacham
KRAPPS LAST TAPE Cricket \$4.60 1/14/60	162-2nd Av OR 4-3960	6 Pro- No Mirror
LA RONDE T Marquee \$3.90 5/9/60	110 E 59 PL 3-2575	1 Pro- WTS (rave) 5 Con- All Mild-No Mirror
LEAVE IT TO JANE Sher Sq \$5 5/25/59	99-7th Av S CH 2-9244	5 Pro- 2 Con- H Trib, News
LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE Orpheum \$4.95 11/18/59	126-2nd Av OR 4-8140	6 Pro- 4 raves-No Mirror
THE MIRACLE Bway Chapel 12/4/60	211 W 56 CI 7-0387	1 Pro- Times- 1 Con- WTS Sun 5 PM only to 2/5
MOUSETRAP Maidman \$5.75 11/5/60	416 W 42 BR 9-3970	5 Pro- 2 Con- WTS, News
MY SON & I Anderson \$4.60 10/22/60	66-2nd Av OR 4-1076	4 Pro- Times, H Trib, News, Post Yiddish-English musical
PLOUGH & STARS Phoenix \$4.60 12/6/60	189-2nd Av AL 4-0525	4 Pro- Times, Post, J Am, WTS 2 Con- H Trib, News
PREMISE Premise \$4.60 11/22/60	154 Bleecker LF 3-5020	3 Pro- News, J Am, WTS 3 Con- Times, H Trib, Post
ROSEMARY & ALLIGATOR York \$4.60 11/14/60	64 & 1st TR 9-4130	5 Pro 1 Con- H Trib- No J Am review
3 PENNY OPERA De Lys \$4.95 9/20/54	121 Chris WA 4-8782	3 Pro- Times, H Trib, Post
LIVING REPERTORY Living \$3.45	530-6th Av CH 2-4569	Connection-5 Con-1 Pro-Post 7/5/59 Theatre Chance-1 Pro-Post 6/22/60

NYC THEATRE CALENDAR

Summer Pygmies-Jan Hus- 12/12	Show Girl- O'Neill- 1/12
Borak- Martinique 12/13	Love & Death- 1/15
Critic's Choice- Barrym 12/14	Catstich- 1/24
Wildcat- Alvin 12/15	Julia, Jake & Uncle Joe- 1/25
Jungle of Cities- Living 12/16	Middle Purvis- 1/26
Rules of the Game- Gram Arts 12/19	Call Right Name- 1 Sher Sq 1/30
Shunned- Dickens- 12/19	
Do Re Mi- St James 12/26	Medium Rare- 2/6
Beautiful Dreamer- Mad Av 12/27	Faust- C Center 2/7
Epitaph for Geo Dillon- Actor Play 12/28	Once Was Russian- 2/8
White Cargo- Players 12/29	13 Daughters- 2/9
	Comedie Francaise- C Center 2/21
	Red Roses for Me- G Mews 2/7
Ballet Ballads- East 74 1/4	
Conquering Hero- ANTA 1/5	Big Fish, Little Fish 3/12
Rhinoceros- 1/5	Donnybrook- 3/17
Sudden End A Cinquefoil-East End 1/10	Carnival- 4/13
Donogoo- G Mews- 1/11	Carte Blanche- Shubert 5/7
	Richard II- C Park 6/19

"CD PROS & CONS"

PROS: All current On & Off Bway except following--

CONS: 49th Cousin, Invitation to March, Little Moon Alban, Sound of Music
Tenderloin, Tenth Man
La Ronde



\$25 check

Bill Co

This weekly NYC THEATRE NEWSLETTER DIGEST SERVICE-now in its 11th year of service to theatre teachers, students, professionals--college drama departments, community theatres, college and public libraries--presents each week of the year a concise 15 minute summary of all theatre news, comments, reviews, etc- published in the past week's 2100 pages of 7 NYC daily newspapers. Plus weekly "Outer Broadway Theatre Letter" supplement giving exclusive coverage of outstanding College, Community, Summer theatre productions coast to coast. Also free critical research on specific data and/or on specific details of late NYC theatre reviews and Out of Town tryout reviews via mail, phone. \$25 per year for full service. Back volumes available from Oct 1956 \$25 per year. "CD" is the perfect theatre gift.

Name.....Address.....

Organization.....City, State.....



OUTER BROADWAY
THEATRE LETTER

College-----Community---- Summer

Dec 12, 1960 Vol XII No 38 The Weekly Supplement of "Critical Digest"-139 E 47, NYC El 5-6894 \$25 per year for full "CD" Service

College Theatre

Goodman Theatre, Chicago Art Institute re-opened refurbished playhouse with Venus Observed featuring guest star Tom Helmore.

A Waltz in the Afternoon, a new play by Jason Miller will be tested Jan 8 at Dallas Theatre Center. Current production is The Matchmaker.

Boston University Theatre presenting Doctor Faustus staged by guest director Word Baker... NYU Hall of Fame Players, University Heights, presenting The Boys From Syracuse Dec 15-22.

King Lear production at Teachers College, Columbia University, includes in its cast of 17, four former Equity members studying for Master's degrees -- Fitzroy Davis, Thomas Hinton, Arthur R Williams, Rylin Beck.

Community Theatre

Rochester, NY, Community Players currently presenting Agatha Christie's Spider Web to Dec 17... Minneapolis Repertory Theatre opened season with The Boy Friend... Theatre in the Round Players, Minneapolis to next present Cat on a Hot Tin Roof.

New Theatres

Arena Stage, Washington, D.C. new 750 seat theatre at Sixth and Maine Ave, SW, will be ready next Oct, reports Atkinson, Times. Group with 6500 subscribers is acquiring a permanent building after it has become a permanent part of Washington's cultural life and should have no trouble raising the final \$250,000 required, NY critic predicts.

Winter Repertory

Profiles of a Critic with Julie Hayden presenting one woman show of critical views of her late husband George Jean Nathan on life, art and theatre, to debut Dec 12 at Pasadena Playhouse.

Only in America to be presented Dec 22 at Ivar Theatre, Hollywood with Cory Allen, Herschel Bernardi... Dear Charles due in Dec at Houston Playhouse, directed by Robert Glenn.

Twinkling of an Eye a new play by Hamilton Wright and Guy Andros will be presented Jan 11 at Actors Workshop, San Francisco, directed by Alan Schneider. It is described as a "modern morality play."

Ford Grants

Frances Reid and Philip Bourneuf joined repertory company of Actors Workshop, San Francisco for full season starting Dec 12 in A Moon for the Misbegotten.

Alley Theatre, Houston, completed Ford Fund backed repertory company with Robert Donley, Myron Natwick, Patrick Miller, Angela Wood.

London

The Connection will be presented in Feb by Peter Daubeny, Michael White, Seymour Hacker, Myron Weinberg with five members of NY cast--Warren Finnerty, Jerome Raphael, Garry Goodrow, Carl Lee, James Anderson.

The Music Man to be presented Mar 9 at Adelphi with Van Johnson by Henry Fielding-Kermit Bloom garden.

Margaret Rutherford to star in Dazzling Prospect next spring.

Theo Bikel to spend busman's holiday in England during Christmas recess of Sound of Music Dec 19-27 giving concerts.

Israel

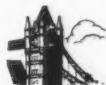
Kiss Me Kate adapted by Aharon Ashman to be presented this season by Israel National Opera, Tel Aviv... Irma La Douce to be presented by Habimah Theatre, Tel Aviv... The Boy Friend to be produced this season by ZOA House, an amateur group in Tel Aviv.

Theatre Tours

Stella Adler to head 17 day European tour Jan 21-Feb 6 planned by Globe-Star Travel Service, 280 Madison Ave, NYC. \$845 total cost includes all transportation, expenses, hotels and theatre tickets in Paris, London, Berlin and East Berlin.

Forthcoming Road Tours

Catstick - New Haven 1/4, Boston 1/9... How To Make a Man-Detroit 12/29 Philadelphia 1/10... Once There Was A Russian -Wilmington 1/18, Philadelphia 1/23... 13 Daughters-New Haven 12/29 Boston 1/9, Philadelphia 1/29



Calendar- Current Tours

Andersonville Trial-Stanley, Utica 12/13-14, Rochester 12/15-17.

Conquering Hero- Erlanger, Philadelphia 12/12

Destry Rides Again- Curran, San Francisco 11/7

Do Re Mi- Colonial, Boston 11/28

Fiorello!-Texas, San Antonio 12/13-14, Del Mar, Corpus Christie 12/16-17

Five Finger Exercise -Royal Alexandria 12/5

Flower Drum Song- Shubert Chicago 11/28

J. B. - Queen Elizabeth, Vancouver 12/14-15, Civic Portland 12/16-17

Majority of One- Erlanger, Chicago 9/26

Midsummer Nights' Dream-Biltmore, Los Angeles 12/13

Music Man- Muncipal, Tulsa 12/12

My Fair Lady- Shubert, Philadelphia 12/5

Once Upon Mattress (Hurok) American, St Louis 12/6.

Once Upon Mattress (bus) El Paso 12/15-16, Tucson 12/17.

Pleasure of His Company-Grand Rapids- 12/15. Dayton 12/17

Raisin in Sun- Auditorium Denver 12/15

Show Girl- Locust, Philadelphia 12/12

Three Penny Opera- Music Box-Los Angeles

World of Suzie Wong-Forrest-Philadelphia 12/5



THEATRE VIEWS ON CRITICS

Diverse views of roles, functions and success of NYC daily critics were discussed by authors, directors, producers and actors during the all-day 1960 National Theatre Conference on "Basic Problems of Drama Criticism" Nov 25 at Hotel Piccadilly, John Gassner, chairman.

Howard Teichman, author of Julia, Jake and Uncle Joe and Solid Gold Cadillac views critics as seasonable and indestructible, like the Japanese beetle. There is a good deal of tyranny in all fields, and the playwright has discovered there is no way to correct critics or even answer them back. But he did point out that the tyranny of ink would be less if the readers themselves were not so lazy to believe that criticism was final.

Critics serve an important and listing purpose, Teichman continued. They are the conscience of the American theatre. No where else in the world are the critical standards as high as they are here, and no where is the quality of playwrighting higher than in US. Critics are honorable, untouchable and human. They close plays by and large which deserve to be closed.

Robert Anderson in a letter to the NTC thanked the NY critics for the service they provide in their coverage of first plays. Author of Tea and Sympathy looks to certain critics as a kind of mirror to reflect distortions of his own work.

Harold Clurman, director and critic of New Republic, is upset by reviewers constant use of "fast" and "slow" in describing direction. But as critic he can understand how reviewers can make professional mistakes in assigning credit for direction. Difficult to know in a composite art like theatre what is responsible for a certain effect. In his own reviews he usually omits mention of direction for most of it in NYC is up to a high level of excellence

Lawrence Langer, Theatre Guild producer, looked back to the best period of the American theatre 30 years ago when critics were eager supporters of the most serious writers. While today when serious works are done there is a tendency among critics to appraise them in the terms of technical playwrighting rather than in terms of their content. It is a forgone conclusion that such serious plays will not appeal to the expense account box-office, but producer thinks that among the millions of playgoers in this country there are enough to support the play of serious intent, even if it falls short of being a masterpiece.

Uta Hagen believes critics are much too generous of theatre as it exists today, much of which is appalling. Also actress believes daily reviewers do not have enough time to clarify the position of theatre to the nation. They should point toward what should exist, but does not now exist. In this way she thinks critics could be pioneers in the creative theatre.



LATE NYC NEWS & REVIEWS

LATE NYC NEWS: Love and Libel was slated to close over week-end after 6 performances... The Best Man business picked up after visit by Sen Kennedy... Howard Morris to co-star with Barbara Britton, How to Make A Man... Monica Boyer to be featured in 13 Daughters... Phyllis Lamhut, Ellen Graff, Steve Paxton, Bob Powell joined Ballet Ballads... Giants, Son of Giants a new play by Joseph Kramm to be presented later this season by Alfred Tamarin-Charles Totero, directed by Jack Landau.

When I Was a Child- 41st St (125 W 41) 12/8. 3 pro-times, Journal American, World Telegram & Sun- and 2 con- Herald Tribune, Post- filed on selection of dramatized stories by Dylan Thomas, Shirley Jackson, Virginia Woolf, Katherine Anne Porter, Frank O'Connor, Sholem Aleichem, adapted and directed by Arnold Tager, presented by Tager and M. Edgar Rosenblum with Robert Stattel, Crystal Field, Gaye Glaeser, George Bartenieff, Jerry Weiss. Pro voters enjoyed excellent readings of adults stories about children, each picking their own favorites, while con voters did not think it constituted theatre as such. Affirmative viewer Taubman, Times, recommended interesting evening in which young performers speak and move well, bringing a personal vitality to the work of gifted writers. Aston, WTS, mildly approved, especially O'Connor's "The Genius" story. McClain, Journal American, rated it sometimes spotty, also picking O'Connor story is highspot. Negative viewer Morgenstern, Herald Tribune, doubted if any amount of ingenuity could provide actors with enough to do while narrator is narrating, and nothing can help make printed word any clearer. Herridge, Post, advised readers to stay home and read same stories, saving energy and money. Actions were hackneyed and many lines shouted, she panned.

Love and Libel- Beck 12/7 - 2 pros- News, World Telegram & Sun- and 5 cons- filed on new comedy by Robertson Davies based on his own novel "Leaven of Malice" presented by Theatre Guild-Don Herbert, directed by Tyrone Guthrie with Dennis King, Gene Saks and Canadian actors- Madeleine Christie, Corinne Conley, Charmion King. Two mild affirmatives enjoyed Dennis King's portrayal of tipsy organist and several scenes enough to overlook script's faults. Negative voters generally found David Hays cut-out sets moved in full view of audience more interesting than play itself, though all found certain scenes they liked. Chapman, News, approved of cheerful, ramshackle, offbeat comedy. Aston, WTS, enjoyed left field comedy, the kind Saroyan would love, with the playing a complete joy. Dissenter Taubman, Times, feared that inspite of Guthrie's fresh ideas he has not been able to infuse the work with life, it played as if it were the dusty comic relief accumulated in the lecture notes of a professor with a complacent opinion of his own wit. Kerr, Herald Tribune, rated it a curious series of oddball musings from mind of obviously sophisticated author never assembled into a play. Coleman, Mirror, found it uneven with some clever writing and some amateurish with too many stabs of humor that miss. Watts, Post, panned it as more nervous than hilarious, genial at best. McClain, Journal American, praised Dennis King who has a field day and predicted that if he had been onstage the entire show the play would have been a hit. But as he wasn't play seemed overlong and lacked in vention

